

*Amendments to the Specification*

1. Applicants respectfully request on Page 1, line 10 of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 the following text to be inserted:

Field of the Invention

2. Applicants respectfully request on Page 1, line 15 of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 the following text to be inserted:

Related Art

3. Applicants respectfully request Page 2, line 37 through Page 3, line 3, of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 to be amended as follows:

Fig. 2 shows a variety of different modes of operation; [[and]]

Fig. [[3]] 3A is a flow chart of a method for performing auto moding in accordance with embodiments of the present invention; and

Fig. 3B continues the flow chart of the method for performing auto moding in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

4. Applicants respectfully request Page 15, lines 4-18, of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 to be amended as follows:

Fig. ~~3 shows~~ 3A and 3B show a flow chart of an auto moding method according to embodiments of the present invention. At the beginning, in step 300, a handshake procedure is performed between a central xDSL modem and a remote xDSL modem. During the handshake procedure, which might e.g. be performed in accordance with the

ITU-T Recommendation G.994.1 “Handshake Procedures For Digital Subscriber Line (DSL) Transceivers”, the central xDSL modem and the remote xDSL modem exchange information about their respective capabilities. In particular, information related to the protocol standards and annexes supported by the modems is exchanged. In the subsequent step 302, a set of common modes of operation is derived from the respective capabilities of the central xDSL modem and the remote xDSL modem. The set of common modes of operation comprises all the protocol standards and annexes that are supported both by the central xDSL modem and the remote xDSL modem. Any one of the common modes of operation can be used for further data transmission between the central xDSL modem and the remote xDSL modem. For this reason, the common modes of operation will further on be referred to as possible modes of operation.

5. Applicants respectfully request Page 16, lines 31, through Page 17, line 2, of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 to be amended as follows:

In case there exist two or more favorable operation modes of high priority, a probing-based selection 320 is performed. In dependence on probing results gathered during the probing-based selection 320, a most suitable mode of operation is selected. The actual line conditions including e.g. signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), line attenuation, channel noise, noise profile, etc. can either be obtained by measurement or by estimation. ~~Fig. 3 corresponds~~ 3A and 3B correspond to an embodiment where the actual line conditions are determined by measurement. Hence, it is possible to consider the actual line conditions including e.g. signal-to-noise ratio (SNR), line attenuation, channel noise, noise profile, etc. when selecting the most suitable mode of operation.

6. Applicants respectfully request Page 20, lines 13-17, of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 to be amended as follows:

At the OAM (Operations And Maintenance Cell) interface, the operator or the system integrator may optionally disable auto moding. Furthermore, the operator or system integrator may optionally disable the probing mode. In case both auto moding and the probing-based selection are enabled, the auto moding procedure as shown in Fig. [[3]] 3B is performed.

7. Applicants respectfully request Page 20, lines 19-23, of the Specification as filed on March 30, 2004 to be amended as follows:

If the probing mode is disabled while auto moding is enabled, the probing-based selection of a most suitable mode of operation will be replaced by estimating the most suitable mode of operation. This strategy will also be pursued if the remote modem is not capable of performing the probing initialisation 322 shown in Fig. [[3]] 3B, or if the remote modem does not successfully complete the probing initialisation 322.